

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 301308Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3705
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMAND
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN DECLINES TO APPOINT INVESTIGATORY
COMMITTEE ON CORRUPTION

REF: NEW DELHI 12965

1. ON AUGUST 29 THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RJYA SABHA,
INDIAN VICE PRESIDENT B.D. JATTI, ISSUED HIS RULING
ON THE AUGUST 10 RESOLUTION PASSED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES
ON THE CORRUPTION ISSUE WHICH HAS DOMINATED PARLIAMENT'S
MONSOON SESSION. (THIS RESOLUTION, PASSED OVER JANATA
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OBJECTIONS, "CALLS UPON" THE GOVERNMENT EITHER TO SEEK
THE ADVICE OF A 15-MEMBER INVESTIGATOYR COMMITTEE OF
THE UPPER HOUSE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OR
ALTERNATIVELY TO APPOINT JUDICIAL INQUIRYN COMMISSIONS
TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION CONCERNING THE
FAMILITES OF MORARJI DESAI AND CHARAN SINGH. ON AUGUST 24
THE PRIME MINISTER REJECTED BOTH ALTERNAATIVES AND PROPOSED

HIS OWN RESPONSE TO THE CORRUPTION CHARGES. SEE REFTEL.)

2. IN HIS RULING, JATTI STATED THAT SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT EITHER OF THE ALTERNATIVES IN THE AUGUST 10 RESOLUTION, HE CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS NOT CALLED UPON TO APPOINT THE 15-MEMBER COMMITTEE OF THE UPPER HOUSE MENTIONED IN THE RESOLUTION. HE FURTHER SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY CALLED UPON HIM TO APPOINT SUCH A COMMITTEE, BUT HAD ONLY CALLED UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF SUCH A COMMITTEE. JATTI'S RULING SET OFF YET ANOTHER CHAOTIC SCENE IN THE RAJYA SABHA LASTING OVER AN HOUR AND A HALF. OPPOSITION MP'S DENOUNCED THE CHAIRMAN FOR IGNORING THE WISHES OF THE HOUSE AND AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER THE CONGRESS (I), CONGRESS AND CPI BLOCS WALKED OUT IN PROTEST.

3. THE NEXT MOVES BY THE OPPOSITION ARE STILL UNCLEAR. CONGRESS (I) EARLIER HAD THREATENED TO DISRUPT BUSINESS IN THE RAJYA SABHA UNTIL IT RECEIVED A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO THE AUGUST 10 RESOLUTION. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT MRS. BANDHI'S PARTY IS CONSIDERING A MOTION TO REMOVE JATTI AS CHAIRMAN FOR CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE. HOWEVER, RESS REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE CONGRESS MAY NOT GO ALONG WITH THE CONGRESS (I) IN SUCH AN ACTION.

4. THROUGHOUT THE DAILY TURMOIL IN THE RAJYA SABHA THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FATE OF THE OMNIBUS 44TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION (NEW DELHI 12878) HAS BEEN HANGING IN THE BALANCE. THE MONSOON SESSION HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTENDED BY ONE WEEK AND PARLIAMENT IS NOW SCHEDULED TO RECESS AUGUST 31. JANATA MP'S FRANKLY CONFESS TO US THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE AMENDMENT CAN BE PASSED BY THE UPPER HOUSE IN TIME. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SESSION BEING FURTHER EXTENDED.
GOHEEN

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